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Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUCHAR 07554 231341Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07
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FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
TO SECSTATE 896
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMDJBASSY BUDAPEST 2812
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
USMISSION BERLIN
USMISSION NATO
AMCONSUL MUNICH

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 7554

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, RO, HU
SUBJ: HUNGARIAN PREMIER VISITS ROMANIA
REF: BUCHAREST A-131, DECEMBER 23, 1976

1. SUMMARY: HUNGARIAN PRIME MINISTER'S DECEMBER 20-21 VISIT TO ROMANIA APPEARS TO HAVE CONCENTRATED PRIMARILY ON ECONOMIC ISSUES. ACCORDING TO HUNGARIAN DCM HERE, TRIP IS PRELUDE TO ALREADY AGREED UPON CEAUSESCU VISIT TO BUDAPEST NEXT YEAR. WHILE BOTH PRIME MINISTERS SPOKE OF EXPANDING ROMANIAN-HUNGARIAN COOPERATION IN NUMBER OF AREAS, THEIR TOASTS ALSO TOUCHED UPON SUCH SENSITIVE ISSUES AS TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND CULTURAL (READ NATIONALITY) POLICY. END SUMMARY.
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PAGE 02 BUCHAR 07554 231341Z

2. HUNGARIAN DCM HAD PREVIOUSLY INFORMED US THAT PRIME MINISTER LAZAR'S TRIP HERE WOULD CONCENTRATE ON ECONOMIC MATTERS AND PUBLIC RECORD APPEARS TO BEAR OUT THIS ASSERTION. VISIT IS OVERDUE RETURN FOR THAT MADE TO BUDAPEST BY THEN ROMANIAN PRIME

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

MINISTER MAURER IN MARCH 1974. SEVERAL ECONOMIC
ACCORDS WERE SIGNED, MOST INTERESTING BEING
PLAN FOR POSSIBLE JOINT HYDROCARBON EXPLOITATION
ALONG BORDER AREA. WE ALSO NOTE PRESENCE IN BOTH
DELEGATIONS OF WATER SPECIALISTS WHICH WOULD INDICATE
DISCUSSIONS CONCERNING THE COOPERATIVE USE AND SHARING
OF ADJACENT BORDER WATER RESOURCES, A SUBJECT WHICH
NEITHER SIDE HAS BEEN ABLE TO AGREE UPON IN PAST
(SEE REFAIR).

3. DESPITE PLEDGES OF EXPANDED COOPERATION IN VARIETY
OF AREAS, INCLUDING TOURISM AND AN UNUSUAL REFERENCE
TO CONSULAR ACTIVITY,UNEASY STATE OF HUNGARIAN-
ROMANIAN RELATIONS WAS REFLECTED IN TOASTS. IN NOT
SO SUBTLE ROMINDER TO HIS HUNGARIAN GUESTS OF THE
TRANSYLVANIAN SITUATION, ROMANIAN PRIME MINISTER
MANESCU INCLUDED "TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY" IN HIS
RECITATION OF FAMILIAR ROMANIAN PRINCIPLES, A
FORMULATION WHICH WE HAVE NOT PREVIOUSLY SEEN.
LATER ON, MANESCU ALSO NOTED THAT ONE OF FUNDAMENTAL
FACTORS OF ROMANIAN PROGRESS HAD BEEN THE "UNSHAKEABLE
UNITY OF ALL THE WORKING PEOPLE, WITHOUT REGARD TO
NATIONALITY." IN TURN HUNGARIAN PRIME MINISTER DWELT
ON NEED TO ENLARGE CULTURAL RELATIONS BETWEEN TWO
COUNTRIES, SYMPTOMATIC OF GOH INTEREST FOR ETHNIC
HUNGARIAN MINORITY IN ROMANIA. COMMUNIQUE ALSO URGES
OPENING "AS SOON AS POSSIBLE" OF LIBRARIES IN RE-
SPECTIVE CAPITALS.

4. ACCORDING TO HUNGARIAN DCM, MORE IMPORTANT THAN
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PAGE 03 BUCHAR 07554 231341Z

LAZAR VISIT WAS AGREEMENT ACCEPTED IN PRINCIPLE DURING
RECENT WARSAW PACT GATHERING HERE THAT CEAUSESCU WILL
VISIT BUDAPEST NEXT YEAR. ONLY AT THIS LEVEL, HE FELT,
COULD PROBLEMS SUCH AS THE FATE OF HUNGARIAN MINORITY
AND ESTABLISHMENT OF A HUNGARIAN CONSULATE IN CLUJ BE
DISCUSSED AND PERHAPS RESOLVED.

5. COMMENT: LAZAR VISIT AND APPARENT AGREEMENT THAT
CEAUSESCU WILL GO TO HUNGARY NEXT YEAR WOULD SEEM TO
INDICATE GREATER WILLINGNESS ON PART OF BOTH SIDES TO
DISCUSS OUTSTANDING DIFFERENCES AND WOULD FIT IN WITH
CURRENT ROMANIAN RAPPROCHEMENT WITH SOVIETS AND OTHER
EE'S. NEVERTHELESS, ROMANIANSS MAY WELL FIND THEY HAVE AS MANY
DIFFICULTIES TO OVERCOME WITH GOH AS WITH USSR. RATHER
THAN A DRIDGE TO UNDERSTANDING AS THE HUNGARIANS SOME-
TIME JH(CR#TO THEIR ETHNIC BRETHERN IN ROMANIAN THE
PRESENCE OF SOME TWO MILLION HUNGARIANS IN A
FORMERLY HUNGARIAN PROVINCE IS A DISTINCTLY

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UNSETTLING FACTOR IN BILATERAL RELATIONS. THIS
IS PARTICULARLY TRUE AT A TIME WHEN ROMANIAN
NATIONAL

POLICY IS BEING ATTACKED ABROAD.
BARNES

NOTE BY OCT: #TEXT AS RECEIVED.

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